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House Watchdog Unit Retained

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The House voted yesterday to continue its freedom-of-information subcommittee, which had been marked for extinction after battling government secrecy since 1955.

The action came by voice vote and without a word of debate after House leaders arranged a quiet compromise in a dispute over the scheduled abolition of the subcommittee on June 1.

Rep. William L. Dawson (D-

Ill.), chairman of the subcommittee's parent Government Operations Committee, had ordered the information subcommittee and two others eliminated after the committee's budget for the year was cut from \$875,000 to \$550,000.

In yesterday's action, recommended to the House by its administration committee, the government operations group got back \$225,000 of the \$325,000 budget reduction.

This fell \$25,000 short of the

sum Dawson said was urgently needed to stave off the committee's reorganization. However, committee sources said the sum allowed would be made to suffice.

The anti-secrecy subcommittee, headed since its inception by Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), was created by Dawson 13 years ago as a special subcommittee to investigate alleged withholding of information by government agencies from Congress and from the public.